

Afterschool staff as all-around school helpers

In sports, a utility player is one who can play several positions competently. Schools re-opening with in-person classes this fall will need utility players to help them open and operate safely as there are so many additional tasks that will need to be done to keep students and staff safe and healthy.

After school providers and other community partners are perfectly positioned to serve as these utility staff as districts re-open. They are already skilled at working with students, and are already part of the school community with relationships to the kids and parents. Here are specific suggestions as to how they can help:

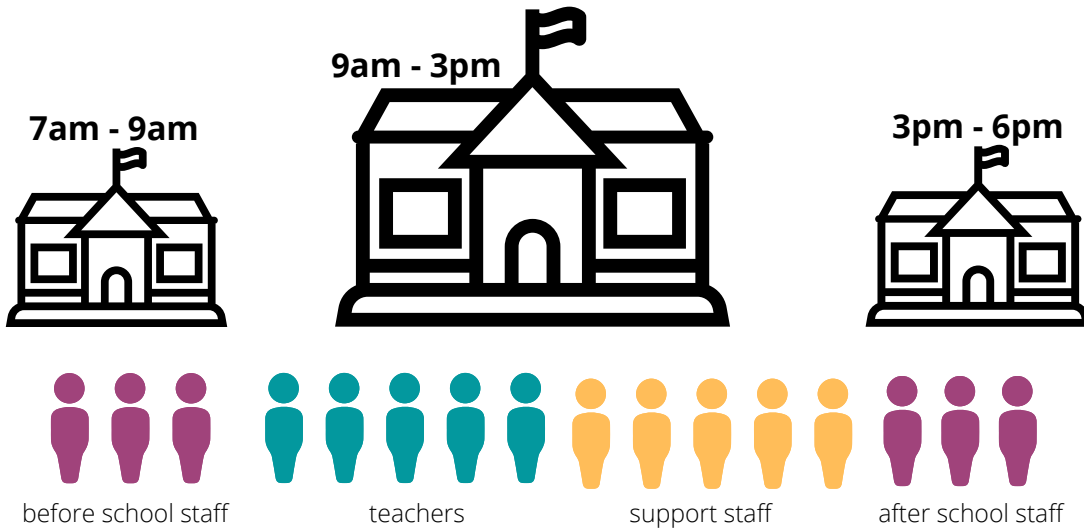
- Dedicated substitute teachers/paraprofessional – to ensure every classroom is adequately staffed, and ensure that there’s not a revolving door of people in and out of the school building
- Disinfection support – high-touch areas will need frequent cleaning all day long
- Isolation room monitor – to supervise sick children as they await parent pickup to free up the nurse to care for other students
- Lunch delivery support – bring the lunches to individual classrooms and remove trash
- Student escort – especially for the youngest students if they have to leave their classroom cohort for any reason
- Bus monitor – to ensure students are wearing masks and social distancing
- Attendance monitor – check-in/check-out with students, call home when someone is absent
- Behavior Health support – help support staff addressing the additional mental and behavioral health needs that are expected to be higher than usual
- Virtual learning tutors – provide support for students opting to learn virtually
- Office helper – make copies, tend to mail responsibilities, help school secretaries and teachers with administrative tasks
- Before- and after-school care programs – families will still need child care at the start and end of the school day, so using the same people in the same building reduces further exposure to the virus by reducing mixing of groups of students

Afterschool staff already play most if not all of these roles between 7-8 am and 3-6 pm, so why not incorporate them throughout the regular school day for this one extraordinary year ahead? School staff need extra help, so why not contract with existing partners to meet these needs when schools are going to need more assistance to keep everyone safe and healthy?

Don’t forget that within your community partnership and afterschool staff you have extra needed support and help to get the school back up and running. Most staff have already been cleared for working with students, and are ready to assist in any way that they can.

School is going to look much different in the fall due to COVID-19. Families, school districts, staff, and community partners will need to work together to give students and each other the support they need to succeed.

Schools Need More Help to Operate Safely



Schools need:

- More health support
- Janitorial support
- Academic support
- Behavioral Health Support
- Attendance Support
- Monitoring Support
- Office Support
- Virtual Learning Support

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Utility staff can help as:

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 - Disinfection
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- Lunch delivery support
 - Student escort
 - Bus monitor
- Attendance monitor
- Behavior Health support
- Virtual learning tutors
 - Office helper
- Before- and afterschool care programs